

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-12 EUR-25 SY-07 RSR-01 AID-20 /154 W

----- 039503

R 111315 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SA LE, IS, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI BEIRUT ATTACK

REF: BEIRUT 4164

SUMMARY: SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE OF ISRAELI BEIRUT ATTACK IS FACTUAL WITH NO UNUSUAL EDITORIAL COMMENT. LEADING PAPER CARRIES STORY OF ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, BUT ALSO NOTES AMEMBASSY BEIRUT'S DENIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI PRESS HIGHLIGHTS ISRAELI ATTACK ON BEIRUT FEDAYEEN RESIDENCES AND PALESTINIAN CAPMP, EMPHASIZING WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE THE INHUMAN NATURE OF THE ACT BY THE LEADING DAILY AL-MEDINA PRINTS ON PAGE TWO A REPORT THAT PLO OFFICES IN ALGIERS AND RABAT STATED THAT ISRAELI ATTACKERS WERE AIDED BY SERVICES OF QUOTE AMERICAN AGENTS UNQUOTE PAREN NOT BY CIA AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORIGINALLY CLAIMED BY PLO IN BEIRUT PAREN, AND THAT ISRAELIS WERE SEEN ENTERING US EMBASSY. SAME ARTICLE STATES THAT A BEIRUT EMBASSY SPOKESMAN DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH THE RAID. TELEVISION COVERAGE MADE' NO MENTION OF ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT. PAPERS ALSO REPORT QUOTE CONFLICTING REPORTS UNQUOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT SIX AUTOMOBILES USED BY ISRAELIS HAD BEEN RENTED TO THREE BRITISH, TWO BELIGANS, AND ONE GERMAN ALL OF WHOM ARRIVED IN BEIRUT APRIL 6.

2. FAISAL DISPATCHED TWO RATHER PRO- FORMA CABLES, ONE TO FRAHJIEH, ONE TO ARAFAT, OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE QUOTE MARTYRED DEAD UNQUOTE, AND CALLINGLLUUBTHE ARAB NATION TO CLOSE RANKS IN THE FACE OF THE ATTACKS TO REGAIN ARAB DIGNITY AND PRESTIGE.

3. EDITORIALS CONTAINEDUSUAL CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEAYEEN AND THE CONFRONTATION STATES. A GOVERNMENT- WRITTEN EDITORIAL ASKED WHAT ACTION TO CONDEMN THE ATTACKS WOULD BE TAKEN BY THOSE ACTIONS WHICH OVERTLY AND COVERTLY SUPPORT ISRAEL.

4. IN SUM, COVERAGE HAS BEEN FACTUAL, TENDING TO BUT NOT COMPLETELY IGNORING CLAIMS OF ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT. EDITORIAL COMMENT OFFERS NOTHING UNUSUAL. THACHER

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, IS, LE, SA, US  
**To:** ALGIERS  
AMMAN  
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NEA  
RABAT  
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TEL AVIV

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